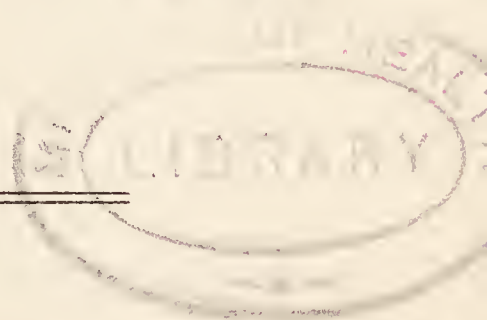


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MALMESBURY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

H. T. HARDING, THE ABBEY PRESS, MALMESBURY.



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MUNDENS,

MALMESBURY,

May 11th, 1926.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

This report is a Survey Report, and in it I shall give statistics covering the preceding five years.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

(1) Area.

St. Paul Within	...	49 acres.
The Abbey	...	38 acres.
Westport St. Mary Within...		91 acres.
Total		178 acres.

(2) Population (census of 1921).

Parish.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Private Families.	Structurally Separate Dwelling Houses.	Rooms occupied.	Rooms per Person.
St. Paul Within	950	401	549	275	270	1303	1.42
The Abbey ...	97	43	54	31	27	172	1.95
Westport St. Mary Within	1360	630	730	365	364	1724	1.30
Total	2407	1074	1333	671	661	3199	1.37

From the above table it will be seen that the total population at the census of 1921 was 2407. At the census of 1901 the population was 2854, and at the census of 1911 the population was 2656.

This shows that the population of your District is steadily declining, there being 447 fewer persons in 1921 than in 1901.

(3) Rateable Value ... £8283.
Sum represented by a penny rate, £32.

(4) Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Births	Legitimate	31	14	} Birth Rate 14.3.
	Illegitimate	3	1	
Deaths	26	12	14	Death Rate 11.3.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of,
childbirth, 0.

Deaths of infants under one year of age

Legitimate 2

Illegitimate 0

—

Total 2

Infantile Death Rate (per 1000 births), 59.

There were three deaths from cancer and five from heart disease during 1925.

I append a table of the birth rates and death rates for the preceding five years.

	Birth rate.	Death rate.
1921	15	13.7
1922	17.1	14.2
1923	16.8	16.5
1924	16.8	13.8
1925	14.3	11.3

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(1) Hospital Accommodation.

Malmesbury Cottage Hospital.

During 1925 66 patients from your District were treated at this Institution.

Malmesbury Maternity Home.

During the year 1925 33 cases were admitted, of which 13 were from your District.

Isolation Hospital.

Cases of infectious disease arising in your District are sent to the Chippenham Isolation Hospital. During the year an agreement was made between the Chippenham Urban and Rural Councils and the Malmesbury Urban and Rural Districts to maintain and support a Joint Isolation Hospital, and in course of time the present Hospital, situated in the Rural District of Chippenham, will be enlarged to meet the requirements of the Districts concerned.

During 1925 one case was removed to Hospital.

Small-Pox Hospital.

In the event of a case of small-pox arising in your District arrangements have been made with the Swindon Hospital Board to remove and treat such case at their Small-pox Hospital.

(2) Professional Nursing in the Home.

The District Nurse (supported by the Malmesbury Cottage Hospital Committee), attends Midwifery cases in your District. During 1925 she attended 21 cases. In addition to this she made 71 School Inspections and 132 home visits.

(3) Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases an ambulance is maintained at the Isolation Hospital at Chippenham.

(b) No ambulance is kept in your District for non-infectious or accident cases.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(1) Water.

No material change has taken place in the water supply during the past five years. The water is from time to time tested and is always found to be pure.

(2) Scavenging.

Household refuse is removed twice weekly from the houses in your District. I should like to see the provision of covered ash-bins made compulsory.

(3) Sewerage.

The sewers are discharged into the River Avon. A considerable quantity of the solid matter in the drains is, however, prevented from reaching the river by the provision of catch-pits situated near the mouths of the sewers. These pits are periodically cleaned out.

(4) Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Your Sanitary Inspector reports that during 1925 eight statutory notices have been served to abate nuisances.

HOUSING.

Although the population of your District is decreasing there is a demand for more houses. There are several houses in your District which are unfit for habitation but it is impossible to condemn these as there is no other accommodation for the inmates.

There is no evidence of any overcrowding in your District.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b)

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:

(i) By the Local Authority	0
(ii) By other bodies or persons	0

I. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 21

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 15

2. Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	7
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	8
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	8
---------------	-----	-----	---

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	0
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	7
---------------	-----	-----	---

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0
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C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
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(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
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(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) Slaughter-Houses.

There are three slaughter-houses registered in your District. These are periodically inspected and are in a satisfactory condition.

(2) Dairies and Cowsheds.

Two dairies and one cowshed are registered in your District.

(3) Bakehouses.

Five bakehouses are registered. These are periodically inspected and are in a satisfactory condition.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(a) Diphtheria.—One case which was contracted outside your District. This case was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

(b) Scarlet Fever.—No case.

(c) Erysipelas.—No case.

(d) Puerperal Sepsis.—One case notified.

(e) Pneumonia.—One case.

Below is a list of the total number of cases notified during the past five years.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small-Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	4	2	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Enteric Feyer	0	0	0
Pneumonia	16	0	5

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

One case was notified during 1925.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No case notified.

In the past five years there have been notified five cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and five cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Venereal Diseases.

Cases of Venereal Disease can receive free treatment under the County Council scheme at either the Bath or Swindon Clinics.

Laboratory Work.

For some years bacteriological work has been carried out at the expense of your Council by the Clinical Research Association of London. During the past year the Wiltshire County Council prepared a scheme whereby examinations could be carried out at their expense at the Central Laboratory, Bath. I advised that the change should be made and since the end of October, 1925, all specimens have been sent to Bath under the County Council scheme.

Seven examinations were made during 1925-6 by the Clinical Research Association and one by the Bath Central Laboratory.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD M. MOORE, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

